

**The Composition Enumeration Reciprocity Theorem:**  
**The Number of Compositions of  $n$  Into Parts  $k \pmod{a}$  ( $k < a$ ) Equals**  
**The Number of Compositions of  $n + a - k$  Into Parts  $a \pmod{k}$  that are  $\geq a$**

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**Theorem:** See title .

**Proof:** Given a composition  $(k + an_1, k + an_2, \dots, k + an_r)$  of  $n$ , construct the word, in the *alphabet*  $\{k, a\}$ ,  $w := ka^{n_1}ka^{n_2} \dots ka^{n_r}$  (whose sum is  $n$ ). Now replace the first letter ( $k$ ) of  $w$  by  $a$ , getting a word  $w' := aa^{n_1}ka^{n_2} \dots ka^{n_r}$ , still in the alphabet  $\{k, a\}$  but whose sum is  $n + a - k$ , and now parse it as  $w' = ak^{m_1}ak^{m_2} \dots ak^{m_s}$  that gives you the following composition of  $n + a - k$  into parts that are  $a \pmod{k}$  and  $\geq a$ :

$$(a + m_1k, \dots, a + m_s k) \quad . \quad \square$$

**Remark:** The case  $k = 1, a = 2$  (with essentially the same bijective proof) was done in Drew Sills' nice article *Compositions, Partitions, and Fibonacci Numbers*, that appeared in the *Fibonacci Quarterly* **40** (2011), 348-354, available on-line at <http://math.georgiasouthern.edu/~asills/comps/CompositionsFQRev.pdf> .

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